
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 439

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes a hierarchy for determining which emergency medical services (EMS) provider is responsible for making patient care decisions at the scene of an emergency call. Under the bill:

1. the EMS provider holding the highest classification of emergency medical responder (EMR), emergency medical technician (EMT), or paramedic licensure or certification from the Department of Public Health (DPH) makes the decision (see BACKGROUND);
2. if multiple providers hold the same licensure or classification, the provider for the primary service area responder makes the decision; and
3. if all providers on the scene are EMTs or EMRs, the EMS organization providing transportation services makes the decision.

The bill requires the provider on the scene who has the decision-making responsibility to transfer patient care if a provider with a higher licensure or certification arrives. All providers must ensure that such a transfer takes place in a timely and orderly manner.

By law, unchanged by the bill, the fire chief (or acting fire chief) of a municipality is authorized to control and direct emergency services when responding to a fire, service call, or other emergency (CGS § 7-313e).

The bill also allows EMS providers to purchase body armor without

meeting in person with the transferor to accomplish the sale or delivery. With certain exceptions, the law requires anyone selling or delivering body armor in the state to meet personally with the buyer or recipient when the delivery or sale takes place. The bill exempts from this requirement EMS providers and authorized officials of DPH licensed or certified EMS organizations who buy body armor on behalf of EMS providers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

DPH-Licensed EMS Providers

DPH licenses at least four categories of emergency medical personnel, listed below in order of their increasing educational requirements:

1. EMRs (also called Medical Response Technicians);
2. EMTs;
3. Advanced EMTs (A-EMTs, also called EMT-Is); and
4. Paramedics,

The department also licenses EMS instructors.

Related Bills

HB 5580, reported favorably by the Planning and Development Committee, and sHB 5542, reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, require municipalities to update their emergency medical services plans as necessary. Among other components, the plans govern how EMS organizations respond to emergency calls.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/25/2014)